

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-20 (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) A resin composition which comprises a copolymer (A) comprising ethylene as a major component produced by using a single-site catalyst, and an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (B) having an ethylene content of 20 to 60 mol% and a degree of hydrolysis of 95% or above, wherein the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (B) contains a boron compound in an amount of 20 to 2000 ppm in terms of boron,

said resin composition satisfying the following equation (1):

$$1/99 \leq \{\text{weight of (A)}\}/\{\text{weight of (B)}\} \leq 99/1 \quad (1).$$

22. (Previously Presented) The resin composition as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the copolymer (A) is an ethylene- α -olefin copolymer in which the α -olefin has 3 to 8 carbon atoms.

23. (Previously Presented) The resin composition as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the copolymer (A) is an ethylene- α -olefin copolymer in which the α -olefin has an ethylene content of 50 wt.% or more.

24. (Previously Presented) The resin composition as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the copolymer (A) has a molecular weight distribution (Mw/Mn) of not greater than 4.

25. (Previously Presented) The resin composition as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (B) contains a phosphorus compound in an amount of 2 to 200 ppm in terms of phosphorus element.

26. (Previously Presented) The resin composition as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (B) contains an alkali metal salt in an amount of 5 to 5000 ppm in terms of elemental alkali metal.

27. (Previously Presented) The resin composition as claimed in Claim 21, wherein

the copolymer (A) has a density of 0.90 to 0.94 g/cm³ and the resin composition further comprises a carboxylic acid-modified polyolefin (C) and satisfies the following equations (2) and (3):

$$60/40 \leq \{\text{weight of (A)}\}/\{\text{weight of (B)}\} \leq 99/1 \quad (2)$$

$$0.1/99.9 \leq X \leq 20/80 \quad (3)$$

wherein $X = \{\text{weight of (C)}\}/\{\text{total weight of (A) and (B)}\}$.

28. (Previously Presented) The resin composition as claimed in Claim 27, wherein resin particles comprising the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (B) and the carboxylic acid-modified polyolefin (C) are dispersed in a matrix of the copolymer (A), and have an average particle diameter not greater than 5 μm .

29. (Previously Presented) The resin composition as claimed in Claim 21, wherein a melt flow rate M_a of the copolymer (A) and a melt flow rate M_b of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (B) satisfy the following equation (4):

$$0.05 \leq M_a/M_b \leq 5 \quad (4)$$

30. (Previously Presented) The resin composition as claimed in Claim 21, which further comprises a hydrotalcite compound (D) in an amount of 0.0001 to 2% based on the total weight of (A) and (B).

31. (Previously Presented) The resin composition as claimed in Claim 21, which further comprises a metal salt of higher aliphatic carboxylic acid (E) in an amount of 0.0001 to 2% based on the total weight of (A) and (B).

32. (Previously Presented) A multilayered structure which comprises a layer of the resin composition as claimed in Claim 21, and a layer of an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer having an ethylene content of 20 to 60 mol% and a degree of hydrolysis of 95% or above.

33. (Previously Presented) The multilayered structure as claimed in Claim 32, which

further comprises at least one layer comprising an ethylene- α -olefin copolymer produced by using a single-site catalyst and having a density of 0.90 to 0.94 g/cm³, in which the α -olefin has 3 to 8 carbon atoms, and at least one layer comprising a carboxylic acid-modified polyolefin.

34. (Previously Presented) The multilayered structure as claimed in Claim 32, which is formed by coextrusion.

35. (Currently Amended) A resin composition which comprises a copolymer (A) comprising ethylene as a major component produced by using a single-site catalyst, and an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (B) having an ethylene content of 20 to 60 mol% and a degree of hydrolysis of 95% or above, said resin composition satisfying the following equation (1):

$$1/99 \leq \{\text{weight of (A)}\}/\{\text{weight of (B)}\} \leq 99/1 \quad (1).$$

36. (Previously Presented) The resin composition as claimed in Claim 35, wherein the copolymer (A) is an ethylene- α -olefin copolymer in which the α -olefin has 3 to 8 carbon atoms.

37. (Previously Presented) The resin composition as claimed in Claim 35, wherein the copolymer (A) is an ethylene- α -olefin copolymer in which the α -olefin has an ethylene content of 50 wt.% or more.

38. (Previously Presented) The resin composition as claimed in Claim 35, wherein the copolymer (A) has a molecular weight distribution (Mw/Mn) of not greater than 4.

39. (Previously Presented) The resin composition as claimed in Claim 35, wherein the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (B) contains a phosphorus compound in an amount of 2 to 200 ppm in terms of phosphorus element.

40. (Previously Presented) The resin composition as claimed in Claim 35, wherein

the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (B) contains an alkali metal salt in an amount of 5 to 5000 ppm in terms of elemental alkali metal.

41. (Previously Presented) The resin composition as claimed in Claim 35, wherein the copolymer (A) has a density of 0.90 to 0.94 g/cm³ and the resin composition further comprises a carboxylic acid-modified polyolefin (C) and satisfies the following equations (2) and (3):

$$60/40 \leq \{\text{weight of (A)}\}/\{\text{weight of (B)}\} \leq 99/1 \quad (2)$$

$$0.1/99.9 \leq X \leq 20/80 \quad (3)$$

wherein $X = \{\text{weight of (C)}\}/\{\text{total weight of (A) and (B)}\}$.

42. (Previously Presented) The resin composition as claimed in Claim 41, wherein resin particles comprising the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (B) and the carboxylic acid-modified polyolefin (C) are dispersed in a matrix of the copolymer (A), and have an average particle diameter not greater than 5 μm .

43. (Previously Presented) The resin composition as claimed in Claim 35, wherein a melt flow rate Ma of the copolymer (A) and a melt flow rate Mb of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (B) satisfy the following equation (4):

$$0.05 \leq Ma/Mb \leq 5 \quad (4)$$

44. (Previously Presented) The resin composition as claimed in Claim 35, which further comprises a hydrotalcite compound (D) in an amount of 0.0001 to 2% based on the total weight of (A) and (B).

45. (Previously Presented) The resin composition as claimed in Claim 35, which further comprises a metal salt of higher aliphatic carboxylic acid (E) in an amount of 0.0001 to 2% based on the total weight of (A) and (B).

46. (Previously Presented) A multilayered structure which comprises a layer of the

resin composition as claimed in Claim 35, and a layer of an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer having an ethylene content of 20 to 60 mol% and a degree of hydrolysis of 95% or above.

47. (Previously Presented) The multilayered structure as claimed in Claim 46, which further comprises at least one layer comprising an ethylene- α -olefin copolymer produced by using a single-site catalyst and having a density of 0.90 to 0.94 g/cm³, in which the α -olefin has 3 to 8 carbon atoms, and at least one layer comprising a carboxylic acid-modified polyolefin.

48. (Previously Presented) The multilayered structure as claimed in Claim 46, which is formed by coextrusion.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 35 has been amended by adding a period at the end thereof.

No new matter has been added. Claims 21-48 remain pending in the application.